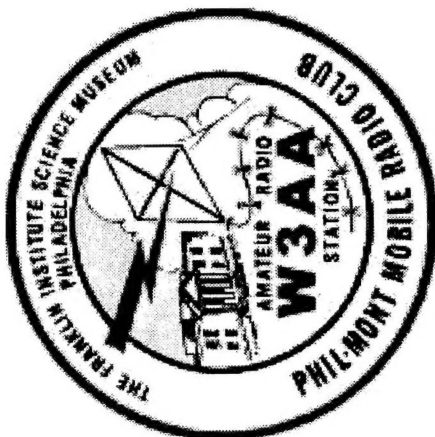


The Blurb

A Publication of

THE PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, INC.

c/o 641 KISMET ROAD, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19115-1114



FIRST CLASS MAIL

AMATEUR RADIO: WHEN NORMAL COMMUNICATIONS FAIL!

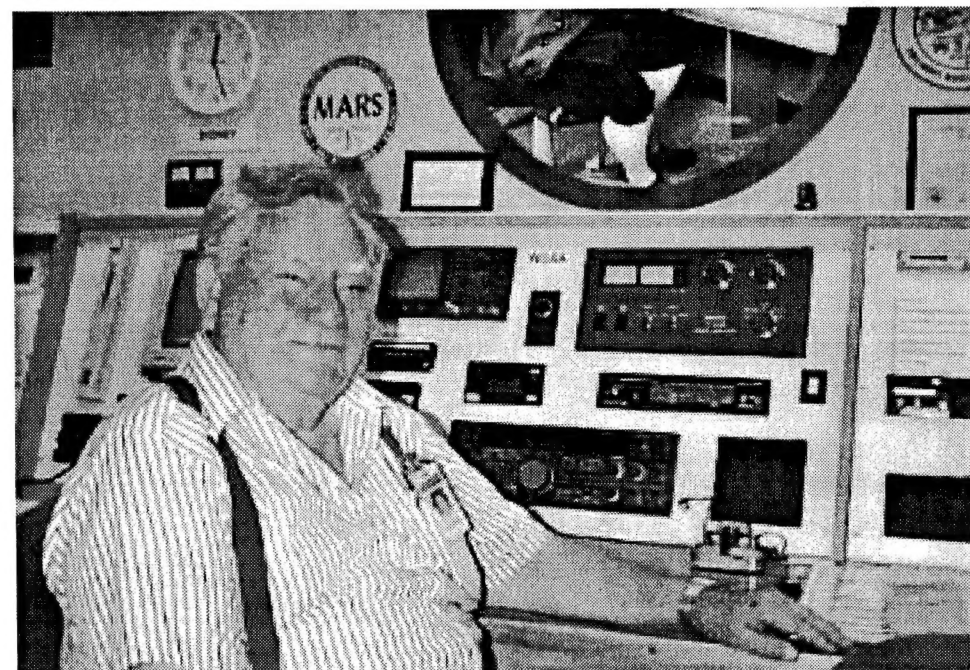
The Blurb



MAY 1998

FLASH!

W3PWG Named Atlantic Division's Grand Ole Ham for 1998!



The "Grand Ole Ham," is a lifetime service award which may be conferred on an Atlantic Division ham who is at least 50 years of age, and/or licensed at least 30 years. The Grand Ole Ham is someone whose long-time devotion to amateur radio, and service to others, sets an example for everyone to follow. Candidates are nominated by their fellow hams, and the winner is selected by a committee consisting of the Director, Vice Director, two Section Managers, a representative of the Division Convention, and last year's Amateur of the Year winner.

The Grand Ole Ham award is our way of saying "thank you!" to senior hams who have made our hobby something we can all enjoy and be proud of.

The Atlantic Division is very happy to honor this year's Grand Ole Ham, Roland Madara, W3PWG.

Story on page 10.

de Kay Craigie, WT3P



VOLUME 48

NUMBER 5

is published monthly by, and for, the members of **The PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, INC.** whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. Copying and quoting is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs; requests should be sent to the Editor. Subscriptions are available to nonmembers for \$10 addressed to the Treasurer. The club meets at 7:30 PM on the second non-holiday Wednesday of every month at **The Franklin Institute Science Museum**, Benjamin Franklin Parkway at 20th Street, Philadelphia. Enter from Winter Street or the parking garage on 21st street. **ALL VISITORS ARE WELCOME!**

Amateur Radio License Examinations are held on the first non-holiday Thursday of every month at The Franklin Institute Science Museum—doors close at 6:30 PM-SHARP!

CLUB INFORMATION

Mailing address: P.O. Box 88, Abington, PA 19001

Internet Web site: <http://www.comcat.com/pmrc>

E-mail: pmrc@comcat.com

2-meter repeater: 147.03 MHz (Main site Roxborough receiver requires no PL, but transmits 91.5 Hz.)

Additional off-site receivers require the following subaudible tones:

Southampton 131.8 Hz—Center City 103.5 Hz—Lansdale 114.8 Hz—Broomall 85.4 Hz

70-cm repeater: 444.80 MHz (186.2 Hz PL)

Simplex: 147.51 MHz

24-hour club information at W3AA: 215-448-1139

STATIONS

W3AA - (Formerly W3TKQ) The Franklin Institute Science Museum, Philadelphia, PA - Trustee WU3I
The club sponsors this world-class demonstration station, and welcomes all licensed amateurs to operate it.

W3AA packet BBS frequency: 144.99 MHz: w3aa@w3aa.#sepa.pa.usa.noam

W3AA e-mail: w3aa@fi.edu

W3EM - Field Day and special events station - Trustee W3VVS

W3QV - 147.03 MHz repeater - Ridge & Port Royal Avenues, Philadelphia, PA - Trustee W3BBB

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: W3CH, Russ Stafford, 14 Eagleville Road, Eagleville, PA 19403 610-631-3401 x902
russ@hdj.com—w3ch@w3ch.#sepa.pa.usa.noam

VICE PRESIDENT: AA3EP, Charlie Weigand, 91 Moyer Road, Pottstown, PA 19464 610-323-1050
aa3ep@aol.com—aa3ep@w3ch.#sepa.pa.usa.noam

SECRETARY: N3PVO, Carol Sebzda, 761 North Hills Avenue, Ardsley, PA 19038 215-884-5518
n3pvo@aol.com

TREASURER: K2BN, Mike Tannenbaum, 545 Cardinal Drive, Dresher, PA 19025 215-542-5991
k2bn@agtannenbaum.com

DIRECTORS

W3BBB (98); WU3I (98); W3RM (98); W3GQD (99); KB3IV (99); N3XKE (99); W3STW (A)

COMMITTEES

Archives: W3IIN
Audit: KE3OP
Awards: AA3EP
Blurb Folding: WB3KOH&J
Budget: K3KUD
Directory: WB3KOJ
DX: NU3Y
Education: W3CH
Emerg. Coord.: N3XKE
Field Day: WU3I
Membership: W3LEN
Net Control: KB3IV
Program: AA3EP
Public Service: AA3EP
Publicity: W3RM
Refreshments: W3AOK
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Skywarn: N3LCV
Special Events: N3WCO
Sunshine: WU3I
TVI: W3VVS
VE Program: ND3Q
W3AA: KB3IV
Welcome: K3CJ
Youth: KE3ZY

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Artist: N3QIE (485th issue)
Labels: WB3KOJ

DEADLINE: To be assured of publication in the current month, all copy MUST be in the hands of the Editor at the General Meeting!

NET SCHEDULE

SUNDAY	09:30	147.030	MHz FM	"SUNDAY MORNING 2 METER NET"
	10:00	28.993	MHz SSB	"10-ON-10 NET"
	10:20	3.993	MHz SSB	75 METER NET
TUESDAY	20:00	147.030	MHz FM	CW PRACTICE NET

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 02 Jack Haring - W3IIM
- 05 Jim Davis - KE3RL*
- Paul Policarpo - N3PP
- 07 Dick Bechtel - W3CBF
- 08 Anthony Adams - N3YRU*
- 09 Carol Sebzda - N3PVO
- Steffie Serafin - KE3ZY
- 10 Elaine Bergsman (XYL N3PSO)
- 12 Bob Henderson - KA3MHO
- 15 Woody Haldeman - W3PST
- 17 Herb Scott - N3OLK
- Larry Toropin - AA3BI*
- 19 Joe Pearlstein - NU3Y
- 20 Bob Field - WA3INW
- Dick Malone - N3MGS
- Shelly Miller (XYL W3SV*)
- 22 Winnie Miller - K3RAB (XYL K3NYN)
- 23 Joe O'Donnell - N3RCQ
- 26 Bonnie Malone - WB3GBN
- 28 Walter Rice Sr. - N3SHI
- 30 Bill Chedeville - W3GQD
- 31 Heidi Mescanti - (XYL WB3KUR)

*Indicates New Member 97-98

DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS

W3FOG's apartment number is C611

Add N3OLK to the e-mail list: h.scottrobo@juno.com

N3ZO's e-mail address is: ron_johnson@fwc.com

K3SPS's e-mail address is: murbev@bellatlantic.net

KB2ERL's e-mail address is: bnicotera@aol.com

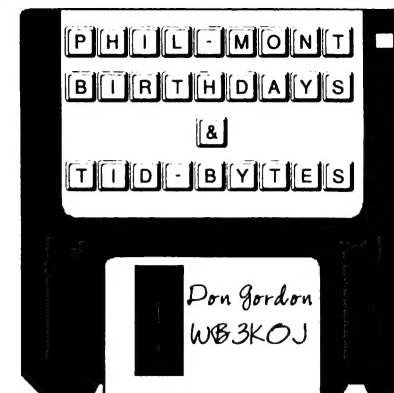
WA3INW's winter address should read 3050 47th N.E. Court

KC2HX has moved his couch across the river. Call him at: 609-616-0800

Add N2RM (see 1997 Directory)

Add KB2ERL (see 1997 Directory)

Add WB3KAC (see 1997 Directory)



HELP PHIL-MONT

Are you planning to join ARRL or renew your current membership? Help P.M.R.C. by joining or renewing through the club...contact Mike Tannenbaum - K2BN, for details.

MEMBERSHIP STATS.

165 FULL
18 FAMILY
9 YOUTH (under 17 yrs)
3 HONORARY
2 PENDING
197

"DON'T TAILGATE... WAIT"—for the courtesy 🚗!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Net Control stations should read the following announcements before asking if there are any more announcements for the net.

- Don't miss your chance to win an Alinco dual-band radio. Only 200 tickets are available for purchase at \$10 each. The proceeds will help to fund this year's club picnic. Details are in this month's *Blurb*.
- On **May 6th.** the Directors' meeting will be held at the home of K2BN & WA2BTB.
- Regular monthly VE testing will take place at The Franklin Institute on Thursday, **May 7th.** at 6:30 P.M. The 1998 ARRL VE test fee is \$6.35, but there is no charge for the novice test.
- This month's General Meeting will be held on **May 13th.** when our program will be the rescheduled talk on **Modern Paging.**

**Come to a Phil-Mont meeting,
and see what all the talk is about!**

WIN A STATE OF THE ART ALINCO DR-605T MOBILE/BASE RADIO

**DUAL BAND • 2-METER & 440 • CROSS-BAND OPERATION
100 MEMORIES • 50 WATTS VHF - 35 WATTS UHF
INTERNAL ANTENNA DUPLEXER • MULTI- SCANNING
FUNCTIONS • MARS CAPABLE INDEPENDENT VHF/UHF
TX-RX INDICATORS • PLUS MANY MORE FEATURES**

**ONLY 200 CHANCES WILL BE SOLD. DRAWING TO BE
HELD AT THE PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB MEETING
JUNE 10, 1998 - 7 PM AT THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE
SCIENCE MUSEUM, 20th & BENJAMIN FRANKLIN
PARKWAY - PHILADELPHIA**

**GET YOUR TICKETS NOW...ONLY \$10 each
MAIL YOUR CHECK TO:**

PMRC - BOX 88 - ABINGTON PA 19001

(Please include a self addressed stamped envelope.)

The PREZ SEZ

Russ Stafford, W3CH



Spring has sprung! Remember, to take care and be safe as you are chipping away at those honey-do lists. As you are catching up on all of the stuff you have been putting off all winter, take extra care. Like when you climb up on the roof to fix all of your antennas, make sure you have someone there with you as a ground crew. You just never know when you will need help.

Now, on to the important things. Thanks to Albert, N3XEI, Steve, WU3I and lots of over the phone help from Al, W3STW, our new full service Packet BBS is now up and running. While it still has a few bugs to be worked out it is working just fine.

With summertime comes lots of public service events. Please try to do at least one of the many events—more if your time will permit. If you don't think we need to do public service just read Part 97 as to why there is Ham radio in the first place. I'll give you a hint. It's not to rag-chew on your local repeater. Ever wonder why the cell phone company will donate as many cell phones as is needed for the big events? It's because when they renew their license they report what they have done for their community. We do the same through the A.R.R.L., but if we are doing nothing there will be nothing

to report. *Think about it!* We are sitting on some prime frequencies, and lots of money-making folks would like to get their hands on them. (Does anyone remember UPS?) Hook-up with Charlie, AA3EP. He can help you sign-up for any of the upcoming events. Lots of help is still needed in May at the Downingtown MS Walk. In the July *Blurb* the forms for the MS150 CITY TO SHORE will be coming out. Fill them out and return them immediately. Remember that all the good spots go quickly, and it's first come, first served.

This year, on the back of the form will be an application for having your call put on the back of the tee shirts in the super booster box. This must be returned very early to make the tee shirt deadline. All the info will be on the back of the MS150 form.

Field Day is next month. Don't forget to mark your calendars. Steve, WU3I has worked very hard on this event, and all he needs is the person-power to pull it off. Sign up with Steve, and see what he needs done as soon as you can. Please don't wait till the last minute to call him; it makes it very hard to plan when everyone waits till the Friday before the event to sign up.

Continued on page 5

General Meeting Program: Modern Paging Systems

UPCOMING

- May 6 Directors' Meeting at
K2BN & WA2BTB's
- May 7 License Examinations at
The Franklin Institute
- May 13 General Meeting Program
Modern Paging**
Rescheduled from February
~~~
- June 3 Directors' Meeting at  
AA3EP's
- June 4 License Examinations at  
The Franklin Institute
- June 10 General Meeting Program  
SHARES and MARS**  
What's happening on frequencies  
outside the ham bands  
**Bob Freer, W3YLT**  
~~~

HAMFESTS

- May 3 WRIGHTSTOWN, PA
Warminster ARC
- May 15-17 DAYTON, OH
Hamvention
- July 12 KIMBERTON, PA
MARC's "Valley Forge Hamfest"
- Jul 26 TIMONIUM, MD
BRATS
- Aug 23 MULLICA HILL, NJ
Gloucester Co. ARC
- Sep 13 GAITHERSBURG, MD
Foundation for Amateur Radio
- Sep 19 MT. HOLLY, NJ
South Jersey RA

V.E. TEST LOCATIONS

Confirm all information, in advance, with the contact person. Licensed applicants must bring the original, and one photocopy of their license. All applicants, including children, must two means of positive ID. Also bring the original, and a copy, of any Certificate of Successful Completion needed to prove current status. The ARRL VEC's 1998 test fee is \$6.35; there is no charge for a Novice test.

- **THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE**
Monthly, 1st Thursday—Dusty Rhoads, ND3Q
215- 879-0505 day, 215- 448-1139 24-hours
- **BELLMAR, NJ**
Diane Nafis
609-227-6281
- **BRISTOL**
George LeNoir
215-943-4886
- **LINWOOD, PA**—(Commercial & Amateur Exams.)
Russ Stafford, W3CH
610-631-3401 x902
- **NORRISTOWN**
Raymond Patton
610-279-1897
- **TELFORD**
Joseph Burgess
215-723-6697
- **UNIVERSITY OF PA**
Jeff DePolo
215- 898-8538 shack, 215-337-7383 home
- **WARMINSTER**
Tom Michaud, WA3TQJ
(215) 343-3494
- **WILMINGTON**
Giselle Walls
302-478-2757

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

Charlie Weigand, AA3EP 610-323-1050
aa3ep@aol.com
Russ Stafford, russ@hdj.com

MS Walk (formerly Super Cities Walk)—
May 3 (see page 7 for more details)

CoreStates USPro Cycling Championship—
June 7

PACKET RACKET

Part Three

Albert McFadden, N3XEI

There are many other uses for a packet radio BBS other than just sending and receiving mail from your buddies. Many BBS' in the area offer a downloadable file section that may contain hundreds of megabytes of ham related software that you can download using a telephone modem, or in some cases right over your TNC using the YAPP protocol.

YAPP, if you haven't heard, stands for Yet Another Packet Protocol. It allows happy packet pigs to download some short programs or utilities right over two meters. Many of you may have seen that unintelligible gibberish that gobbles up your monitor when you are trying to read a few bulletins, and thought at first that it was Compressed Mail Forwarding. But it may be somebody downloading a neat little morse code trainer or a logging program for keeping track of all those DX contacts. Yapping should only be used during times when the frequency is relatively quiet. If you can see somebody else using the BBS or a nearby BBS or node, It would be very rude to start a YAPP at that time.

To find out if your sysop maintains a downloadable file section you may drop them a note, or on an FBB BBS, type the letter D at the main prompt. You will see a letter prompt very similar to the C:> just like on your computer. From this point you can use commands like DIR or LIST to see what files or directories are available to you. Again the listing looks just like it does when you type DIR or LIST on your computer at home. You may see a directory name that you find interesting. Perhaps there is one named WINDOWS. By using the command CD\WINDOWS or CD WINDOWS to enter this particular directory,

you may see a file that you were looking for for a long time. Many sysops have hoards of ancient software as well as current titles. So if you decide you would like to have that file, how do you proceed from this point?

There are several methods or protocols you could use. If you do not know how to YAPP, you will have to ask your sysop for a special terminal program that supports this protocol. Many do not. Just send the sysop a note and ask for help YAPPING.

Another protocol is AUTOBIN. Again, your packet software may or may not have this capability. Autobin also works via a radio link. Many BBS', in addition to radio ports, have a telephone port. This is probably the best way to d/l the files you choose. XMODEM, YMODEM and ZMODEM are almost always supported, and you may be able to get access to your favorite BBS via a landline. While some say that's not being a good ham, I personally believe that ham radio, telephone, and Internet can exist together. If you don't agree let's argue. <smile>.

Ask your sysop if telephone access for downloading files is available. If there are a lot of files in the d/l section, then chances are they will give you access. ☺

After months and months of talk, W3AA now has a full service Packet BBS! Yes, it has FOR SALE, SWAP, WANT, DEBATE and much more. It has no limit as to the number of messages. Previously the limit was 300, but now we are limited only by the size of the hard drive. On line right now is the Gateway(G), the Sat tracker that takes the kepps and loads them into the tracker program right on the BBS. It is updated twice a week. Soon the direct FCC database will be on line. The BBS will remain on 144.99 and reports are good, give it a try! Connect to PMRC! de W3CH ☺

156TH MONTHLY VE SESSION STATISTICS APRIL

14 candidates took 23 elements
7 new amateurs plus 3 upgrades

VE team members:
Dusty Rhoads, ND3Q, Chairman
Carol Hutkin, K2BL; Darryl Russell, AA3NV;
Jim McCloskey, KE3OP; Jeff Kerber, KE3UV

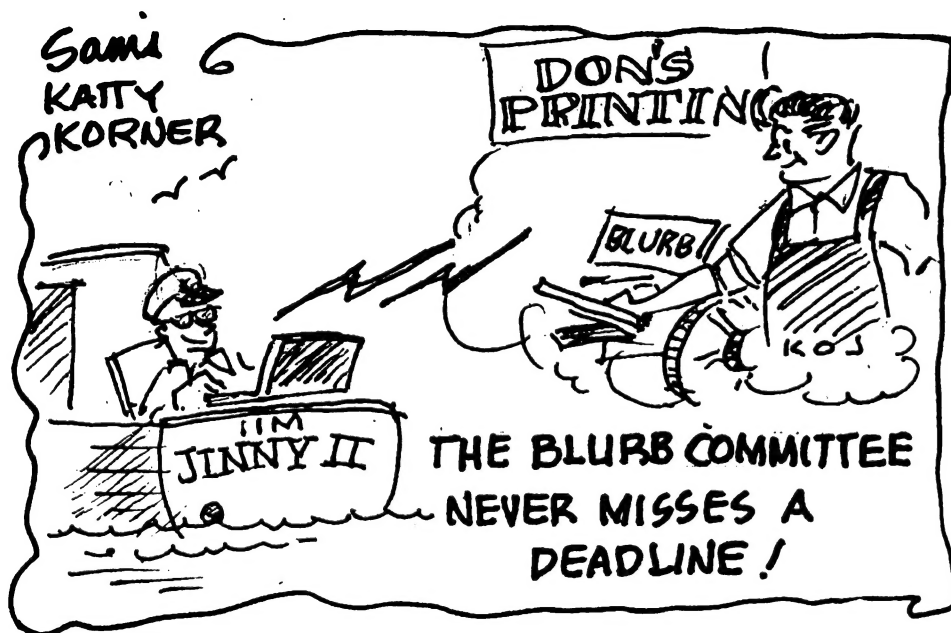
**AMATEUR LICENSE EXAMS HELD ON THE FIRST
NON-HOLIDAY THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH**

Registration begins at 6:00 PM

Doors close at 6:30 PM sharp

**THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE
SCIENCE MUSEUM**

For Information Call ND3Q at
(215) 448-1139 or 879-0505
Accessible by the handicapped.



MINUTES

APRIL DIRECTORS' MEETING

Carol Sebзда, N3PVO, Secretary



The April Directors' Meeting was opened at 8:05 p.m. by Russ (W3CH).

The following Officers and Directors were present: Russ (W3CH), Charlie (AA3EP), Carol (N3PVO), Mike (K2BN), Steve (WU3I), Ed (KB3IV), Al (W3STW) and Bill (W3GQD).

The following committees reported.

TREASURER - Mike (K2BN) reported the bottom line is we have \$8,500 in the bank. We have increased our funds by about \$3,000 this year. Everything is doing very well, and regular dues are doing better than last year. Currently the repeater addition is paid off. W3AA has had no expenses, so all contributions have been income. It was discussed putting the excess funds into something paying more in interest than the current savings account. Mike agreed to explore the options and report back to the Board.

Blurb - Russ (W3CH) reiterated the cartoon in March's issue was an April fool's joke, that he was not taking over as Editor, and the fact that Jack (W3IIM) would be retiring as Editor of the *Blurb* at the end of the year was a reality,

and a replacement is needed.

W3AA - Steve (WU3I) reported the need for a permanent volunteer on Wednesday to man the station. Please notify Steve if interested.

MEMBERSHIP - Russ (W3CH) reported that 13 people had not renewed their membership for this year.

REPEATER - Rick (N3DHI) reported all to be working fine. A question was raised on the progress of the voting system. Rick responded that the voter itself was built, but more work was need for the link receivers.

OLD BUSINESS - Rick (N3DHI) asked if a final decision had been made on moving the 10-Meter Sunday Morning Net down to the novice section of the band. Ed (KB3IV) said he would contact Hal (W3HFY). Also Steve (WU3I) reported the final income from the estate of Hal Fox, silent key, (W3AA) will be \$3791 when it is all sold. With no more business to discuss, the meeting was closed at 9:26 p.m. by Russ (W3CH). Thanks the Bill (W3GQD) and his wife Jackie for hosting the meeting. ☺

Continued from page 3

I must thank Bob Lees from Mont-Co. R.A.C.E.S. who gave a great talk at our April meeting. I noted that the room was silent during his talk. R.A.C.E.S. is something that all hams should be a member of. Once again don't wait till the @#%\$ hits the fan to help out. It will be too late, and in most cases you will just be in the way. If you live in Philadelphia, Gene, N3XKE is work-

ing on getting that R.A.C.E.S. group back up and running. Mont-Co. is one of the best groups I have seen in my many years in R.A.C.E.S. Bucks County has a very good group as well. If you need any info on how to join R.A.C.E.S in your area contact me, and I'll get you in touch with someone in your area who can help get you signed up.

See you all at the next PMRC meeting! ☺

MINUTES

Carol Sebzda, N3PVO, Secretary

APRIL GENERAL MEETING

The 576th General Meeting of the Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club was opened at 8:00 p.m. by Russ (W3CH). A motion was made and approved to waive the reading of the minutes. The following committees reported.

FIELD DAY - Steve (WU3I) said that the Field Day trailer was taken for a trial run. It will be used to transport all of the antennas. The antennas and controllers needed have been acquired. The antennas will be set up on Friday sometime after 2:00 p.m. Anyone interested in attending Field Day please notify Steve.

MEMBERSHIP - Len (W3LEN) reported that there were no new members this month, but there are 3 or 4 application pending.

NET CONTROL - Ed (KB3IV) reported on the continuing need for another Code Practice Net Control. If you can help out please contact him.

PROGRAM - Charlie (AA3EP) reported April's program would be the reschedule of Modern Paging.

REPEATER - Rick (N3DHI) reported that the repeater maintains 5.2 hours a day of transmit time. All is working fine in lieu of man-made interference. If you would like to help find those people, contact Rick.

SKYWARN - Art (N3LCV) thanked those people who reported in during the severe weather some areas had on April 1.

PUBLIC SERVICE - Charlis (AA3EP) reported on the upcoming event. See the list elsewhere in the *Blurb*.

SUNSHINE - Steve (WU3I) reported Len (KE2CR) was back in the hospital.

W3AA - Steve (WU3I) reported that a new

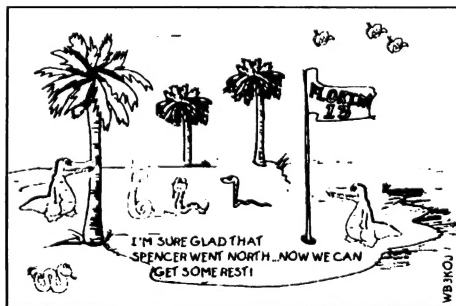
packet BBS was in place. The station was guaranteed its place in the Institute through at least 1998. Also a person is needed as a regular volunteer for Wednesdays.

WELCOME - Adam (N3RCS) welcomed the 29 members and 3 visitors.

YOUTH - Stefanie (KE3ZY) said "the youth are still LAZY."

OLD BUSINESS - Russ (W3CH) reported on the many interference problems on the repeater. Russ also reported one of those who has admitted to interfering, resigned from the club but who still continues to interfere on our repeater and on other frequencies is Kornwell Chan, formerly (KC3DH) now (AA1TL). Another club member is also known to be interfering on our repeater and on other frequencies. Your help as club members is needed to help stop this problem.

With no more committees to report, and no more business to discuss, the meeting was closed at 8:31 p.m. by Russ and turned over to Charlie (AA3EP) who introduced us to our speaker for the night from R.A.C.E.S. ☺



lot of competition to Iridium. Prices will drop.

6. My GPS is LEO, and I have to be in the clear for it to work. I do not want to stand by an open port or go outside to use my satellite phone. Will Iridium be like that?

No, it should work throughout the boat, within reason. Iridium has a 16 dB link margin (that is how us techie types say it is quite strong). This means that it will penetrate into rooms. From calculations, and recent testing, we know that it will not penetrate quite as well as cellular does. Don't count on it working way down in the engine room though!

7. Cellular fades in and out as I move, then drops out as we cruise farther from shore. Will iridium be the same?

No, the coverage will be roughly constant over the entire surface of the globe. Also, since it is based on GSM cellular (i.e., not the older AMPS used in North America), it is digital. So, while the voice may not sound quite as good to some, the quality remains much more constant throughout the range of any one cell.

8. What about other LEO satellite systems?

Iridium is mostly flying now (there is another launch scheduled this month, that I think will bring it up to 3/4 launched). After Iridium was made public, many other systems popped up. In my industry, we call systems that are more trial balloon than real "paper satellites". So far as I know, nobody else has launched an Iridium-type constellation. Having said this, there will probably be one or two of them operational in 1999 or 2000 (Iridium will be operational this year). Also, there are other LEO systems out there. One such system (Orbcom) of a type called "little LEO" is operating. But, it is not

intended for voice. Others are intended for broadband data.

9. If I buy an iridium phone, how long before it becomes obsolete?

Probably right away, like anything else these days. I'm only half-joking. Iridium already has plans for Iridium II. Motorola has a new system on the drawing board called Celestri. Competitors likely have similar plans. But, if you want the service in 1998 (OK, the end of 1998) there will be few choices. Also, it is a bit like computers. They keep advancing, and if you wait for the "best" one to come along, you will never buy.

10. Will I be able to use it in any port?

Like all radio use, it is subject to both international and domestic law. Iridium and its competitors have a consortium to address this, called the GMPCS-MOU. It is modelled after the GSM cellular system MOU. Under the terms of this MOU, operators and governments allow almost free roaming of GSM. So, I can use my GSM phone anywhere there is a GSM system (and I do). Iridium will be like that. It is a member of the GSM MOU too (since it is a very GSM-like system). However, as with today's cellular, there are spoilsport governments here and there. If they forbid use within their territory, then service there will be illegal. The Iridium system is configured to be able to cope with this limitation. I do not know about the competing systems.

Disclaimer. I hope that you have enjoyed these three articles. I enjoyed writing them—the communications business is my working life (boating is my real life). These are my original works, not a cut and paste from anywhere. I do not represent my employer, Motorola, in this writing, nor do I represent Iridium LLC. ☺

Satellite Communications

Maurice Nunas

This is the final installment of the three-part series. Now we all understand what the different types of satellites can do, hopefully. This part is in Q & A format, and deals with some of the business issues that affect customers, especially boaters in some cases.

Part Three—Questions and Answers

1. Will Iridium replace cell phones and pagers?

Short answer—no. Cell phones and pagers will still be significantly less expensive to buy and operate. Also, many people simply do not need the huge coverage that Iridium will offer. Another factor is critical mass. The cellular companies have the critical mass (millions of subscribers) to sustain their businesses for a considerable time. But, coverage outside the current cellular areas (most of where we want to go) will not come from the cellular systems, even in the distant future. Extension of the terrestrial systems much beyond the current coverage areas is just not economical.

2. Will I have the same billing problems with Iridium as I have with XXX service?

I understand the existing problems—duplicate bills, no service to “transients”, big deposits and so forth. The cellular companies that will offer the service (see below) are big business, and they will change the nature of satellite services. So, service should improve, deposits should drop and multiple bills should disappear.

3. What about present cell phone conversion?

Nope, I doubt it. So far, the consumer product mock-ups I have seen from Motorola and others are new stand-alone devices. It looks like there will be some that are just a satellite phone. But, others will be a satellite

phone inside of which is also a cellular phone. The system will route the call the cheapest way, unless you force the routing otherwise. There are several cellular standards (and more coming). We have a product coming that has a sort of plug-in. If you are in Europe you plug in GSM—in North America you plug in AMPS, and so on. Of course, all this appeals only to those of us who travel a lot. Most people will only ever need a plain old cell phone.

4. Who will participate?

First, I do not think that Iridium will offer a service directly to the consumer—I don't think Motorola will either. Iridium will be a “wholesaler”. Motorola always has been primarily an equipment manufacturer. There are a half-dozen cellular companies in almost every country here in Asia. I know that back home there are now many more of them too. They will not be left out—too big—too much clout. The same goes for the phone companies. Figure on the existing players (some or all) offering Iridium service as a Value Added Service to their main business.

5. What about price?

The cost of space phones and service is dropping. A couple of years ago, the Iridium air time charge was estimated to be \$3 per minute. Back then, the only competition was at \$10 per minute. Just the news of \$3 per minute Iridium service caused the price of existing satellite services to drop. With so many big players, I think the price will be competitive. Also on price, you have to look at apples and apples. I have seen some companies say that they will be at a dollar a minute or less. But, if you blow away the blue smoke, you find out that this is not the complete call charge end-to-end, as is quoted by Iridium. Bottom line, there will be a

MS WALK SCHEDULE

Join the National Multiple Sclerosis Society in celebrating its 10th Annual MS WALK (formerly Super Cities Walk) on April 19th and May 3rd. Become a volunteer Ham to provide support to the walkers. Help the National Multiple Sclerosis Society in its ongoing mission to end the devastating effects of multiple sclerosis. We welcome any new volunteers at one of the MS WALK's eight sites in the Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey regions. For more information. Contact Charlie, AA3EP, or Russ, W3CH

Location

Sunday, May 3, 1998

Contact

1997 Participants

*Phila Museum of Art (Phila. Pa.)	AA3EP	1,879
Kardon Park (Chester Co. Pa.)	N3RUK	351
Main St. Voorhees (Camden Co Nj.)	KA2YKN	987
Linwood Park NJ Shore (Atlantic Co Nj.)	TBA (SPARC)	367

These events are relatively small, and we are finished by early afternoon.



C Q F D

WU3I

Yes, it's me again, and it's only a month later. I have contacted a few who have said they are attending. There is a short list and I must know if you are coming and when. I must know what meals you will be having with us and purchase the necessary amount of food.

The reservation is in with the Park and the fee has been waived. I need to coordinate a Media Release for Field Day to get the 100 bonus points.

The place remains the same Fort Washington State Park June 27 and 28. The Tower crew will arrive Friday the 26 after 2 p.m. to erect the towers and beams. The tower crew will be staying overnight at the site for security of our antennas. Contact me if you wish to setup your antennas on Friday also. We still need one straight section of Rohn 25 for the last tower (Herb N3OLK has one we can borrow, but we're still looking). We have a 15M monobander from Bill WA3NSP, and a 10M Monobander from W3CH. For 20M we will use a Mosley CL33 donated by KA3BET. The newly built tower trailer had its maiden run

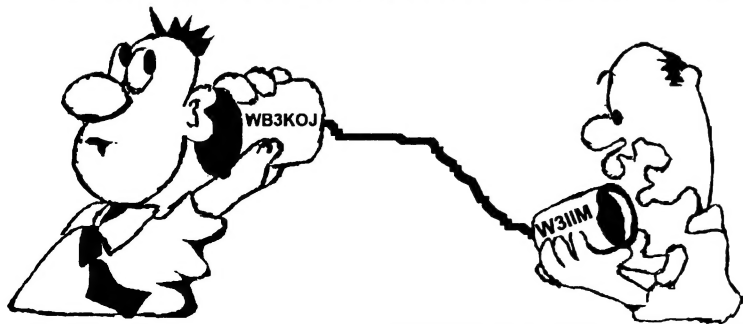
to the Trenton hamfest and performed well. Band captain for 75/80 has antennas from last year. Band captain for 40 can contact me if no antenna is available. Band captains (don't everybody step up at once) are as follows:

75/80 W3CH
 40 N3TRO
 20 WU3I
 15 WA3NSP
 10 2/packet W3AOK
 Satellite KF4I/W3STW

We want to run a 6A site, and have the generators from W3LEN to help that along. All stations will be set-up along the same site plan developed by Chris, Dick and Rick last year (why change a good thing?). N3FTC will be relieving me of the cooking duties (well some anyway), and will be along on Saturday to provide the goodies. Last year the cost was \$10 for Saturday lunch and dinner, and Sunday breakfast and lunch. We won't know the exact cost till we know how many people, and what exactly we prepare. Suggestions accepted (well at least listened to). We have laptop computers for each of the positions for logging.

Of course any suggestions or help is welcome. ☺

A MODERN MIRACLE: THE MASTERS FOR THIS BLURB WERE SENT FROM FLORIDA TO PHILA. VIA E-MAIL



WANTED



QUALIFICATIONS

YOU SHOULD HAVE THE FOLLOWING:

- A desire to continue the high standard set by the previous editors of this award winning publication;
- Be willing and able to commit to a monthly schedule - 12 months a year;
- Have access to a computer with full service e-mail (not Juno), a laser printer, and a desktop publishing application;
- Working knowledge of graphics helpful;
- Writing, spelling, and editing skills;
- Well disciplined organizational skills.

REMUNERATION

You'll receive a lot of criticism, and an occasional "AT-A-BOY." Plus, you'll receive a great deal of personal pride in continuing the unbroken tradition of this important publication which, on a timely basis, keeps over 200 members informed about our club.

WHEN AND HOW

W3IIM plans, after more than ten years, to pass the pen, on or before December 1998. If you think that you would like to assume this job, please contact Russ Stafford at russ@hdj.com.

DX Report

Joe Pearlstein, NU3Y

8Q - MALDIVES IM5MDF will be active as 8Q7DF from May 2nd - 10th as following 3780, 7080, 14180, 21280, and 28480 kHz. QSL via CBA.

EP - IRAN EP3HR is active on 18150 kHz from 1400-1500Z. QSL via I5MQP.

9N - NEPAL 9N1CU is active on 80, 20, & 15 Meters. He will be there for 2 years. 40 meter activity will start in July. QSL to P.O. Bx 4010, Katmandu, Nepal.

FT5X - KERGUELEN FT5XN will be active until July. QSL via F6PEN.

V6 - MICRONESIA June 1 - 7 a new IOTA first-time op from Mokil Atoll, State of Pohnpel Is., including a multi-op entry in WPX CW as V63VV.

Good luck, and happy hunting. ♪



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

CALL: KE3QB
NAME: Carmen DeCicco
NICKNAME: Rage
CLASS: Advanced
ADDRESS: 4405 Garden Street
 Philadelphia, PA
 19137-2013
OCCUPATION: Electronics Technician
HOME PHONE: 215-289-7524
BUSINESS PHONE: 215-580-4428
E-MAIL:
PACKET:
COMMITTEES: Field Day, *Blurb*

Gama
 CORNER THE JOB AS BLURB EDITOR
 PAYS BIG BUCKS!!



THANK K.O.J.

The International Voice of The Franklin Institute Science Museum

THE W3AA REPORT

Just a year ago we were celebrating the arrival of our new Kenwood TS-570SAT Hf plus 6M radio. Now we worry about being able to use it as it sits. As far as we are sure W3AA will be Status Quo for the balance of 1998. As we find out more information you, the club, will be kept informed.

I received a call from Miriam Kravitz (KB2EUA) informing me that she and her husband Len (KD2CR), our regular Wednesday morning Volunteers, would no longer be able to serve. Len is back in the hospital, and we wish him well. We are looking for a Wednesday volunteer. If you have the time please contact me.

The CAMP-IN dates for May are:

5/1 Friday
 5/2* Saturday
 5/8* Friday
 5/15 Friday
 5/16* Saturday
 5/29 Friday
 5/30 Saturday

*designates an all-female night. Males may not sleep over. Suggested hours are 18:00 to 22:00. You may spend the night to work rare dx if you wish. Interested parties please contact Jenn Seva at 448-2195 by the Wednesday before.

—Steve Hoch, WU3I

Internet: <http://www.fi.edu/tfi/exhibits/w3aa.html>

Rolland Madera, W3PWG Grand Ol' Ham for 1998!

Dear Sirs;

The enclosed submission is for GRAND OLE HAM. Please consider the applicant for 1998.

Rolland Madera W3PWG has been licensed for 47 years, a member of Navy MARS for 36 years, Army MARS for 41 years and has provided a continuous service to the community for the last 26 years as an operator and as the Trustee of W3AA (previously W3TKQ). Rollie still volunteers every Monday at the Museum. In 1996 he lost his wife Anna and has kept himself busy with Ham Radio and tracing his Family Tree. He has some 600 listings on 7 different branches of the tree. Having held several callsigns he is happy to have the first call issued to him when first licensed W3PWG.

In 1994, at the age of 83, Rollie talked to me about having a "younger person" take over as the trustee, after having served in the post for the last 22 years, and when he suggested me I was honored and quickly accepted. When the new license arrived we had a ceremony and had a version of "This is Your Life" for Rollie and presented him with a framed copy of the old and new licenses. Included was a visit with a ham in Texas who had been a regular contact for over 40 years. Grace Dunlap K5MRU was not able to make the trip but sent a tape recording of her congratulations to Rollie. (In all that time they have never met)

Originally licensed as W3PWG Rollie held; W5RFZ, W9NQG and received W3PWG back when he settled here in Landsdowne, Pa. After 24 years in the Navy Rollie settled in Landsdowne, Pennsylvania near his wife's family and worked for RCA for 3 years and then 15 for GE. In 1972 he went to work after "retiring" at the Franklin Institute until 1990 when the operators were "laid-off" this prompted action by the action by Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club to rebuild the station.

Enclosed is a Bio Rollie wrote for the 40th Anniversary of W3AA in 1992 and a short history of the MARS operation at W3AA.

In closing let me say there is no more deserving person than Rolland Madera W3PWG for this honor. I have personally known Rollie for 16 years and think this a fitting honor for a fine Ham.

Sincerely, Stephen C. Hoch WU3I
Station Trustee W3AA
Past President 1995, 1996

way you do. Enter Harley D. Volt, the inventor of the volt meter which he coincidentally named after himself which is OK because measuring specific gravity of toxic, caustic and yucky acids is the pits and we can forgive ol' Harley's penchant for self-aggrandizement for that reason alone.

Based on the readings of a volt meter an idle 12 volt battery sitting at 11.9 volts is dead. Not plumb dead but discharged enough that to discharge it further is going to significantly shorten its life. Now, to get that battery back up to full charge (typically 12.7 volts, at rest) we need to apply both voltage and amperage to the battery's terminals (in technical jargon this is called "charging the battery") until the volt meter reads something in the neighborhood of 14.8 volts. At this point we terminate the charging and allow the battery voltage to fall by about 1 to 1.5 volts, which it will do by itself. We have now completed the Bulk Charge phase of charging the battery. The battery is now about 85% fully charged. Now here's where the experts and charge regulator manufacturers all begin to disagree. We can do one of several things to get the last 15% of charge back into the battery but the obvious thing is to start the charging process back up again. We can give the battery the same amount of voltage and amperage as it was receiving in the bulk charge phase, bring it up to 14.8 volts, terminate the charge, let the voltage fall, repeat the process over and over until the battery is fully charged or we can enter the exotic world of absorption and float charging. No, this has nothing to do with gin and tonics on an air mattress at the pool as the name implies, but rather refers to bringing the voltage up to approximately 14.8 and holding it there for an hour or so then dropping the voltage down to 13.8 and reducing the amperage to a trickle for 2 or 3

hours.

Some folks say that absorption and floating a battery are a waste of time and that pulsing the charge into the battery is the only real way to get a good, fast charge into the battery. The Pulse Width Modulated charge regulators on the market today employ this method of charging and they work something like this: Rather than a steady voltage and amperage being applied to the battery's terminals, a PWM regulator sends short bursts of power (like maybe 300 bursts per second, real fast) to the battery's terminals. As the battery approaches 14.8 the bursts become shorter in duration and the pauses between the bursts become longer until the battery is fully charged (usually a given amount of time like 1 or 2 hours).

But the real double whammy is to combine the bulk, absorption, float method with the pulse method for a real thorough finish charge. Not all experts agree as I mentioned earlier, but experience has shown us that the we can get good service out of a battery if we try to put back on a daily basis what we've taken out plus a little bit more for good measure. Regardless of the method we use, the point is that we have to take that battery up to around 14.8 volts at least one or more times. Please note that I always say about, around, more or less, and other noncommittal type words when referring to battery voltages. That is because none of the experts agree and I learned all of this from the experts.

Another stage of battery charging is the equalize charge and I know you would love to hear all about it, but you'll just have to wait for another time. ☺

<http://www.sunelco.com/>

WEATHER RADIO CODES

At the SKYWARN controllers' meeting recently, there were several requests for state FIPS codes, and for county FIPS codes and NWS county zone codes. These codes are needed for the new weather radios.

**COUNTY FIPS NWS
Code Zone**
Pennsylvania (State FIPS code = 42)

Berks	011	60
Bucks	017	69
Carbon	025	54
Chester	029	67
Delaware	045	70
Lehigh	077	61
Monroe	089	55
Montgomery	091	68
Northampton	095	62
Philadelphia	101	71

New Jersey (State FIPS code = 34)

Atlantic	001	22 (Coastal sections 25)
Bergen (NYC)	003	3
Burlington	005	19
Camden	007	18
Cape May	009	23 (Coastal sections 24)
Cumberland	011	21
Essex (NYC)	013	5
Gloucester	015	17
Hudson (NYC)	017	6
Hunterdon	019	9
Mercer	021	15
Middlesex	023	12
Monmouth	025	13 (Coastal sections 14)
Morris	027	8
Ocean	029	20 (Coastal sections 26)
Passaic (NYC)	031	2 (Western) 4 (Eastern)
Salem	033	16
Union (NYC)	039	11
Warren	041	7

Delaware (State FIPS Code = 10)

Kent	001	2
New Castle	003	1
Sussex	005	3 (Coastal sections 4)

Maryland (State FIPS Code = 24)

Caroline	011	20
Cecil	015	8
Kent	029	12
Queen Anne's	035	15
Talbot	041	19



**Wet-cell, Lead Acid Battery
Charging, and How It Relates to the
Future Well-Being of the Cosmos.**

Anonymous

During the course of the business day I am often called on to discuss batteries with customers, and I have found that many people don't understand what happens when their batteries are charging. I'm often asked something like, "How do I know at what state of charge my batteries are?" The easiest answer is to tell the customer to read the battery voltage but without some points of reference the voltage readings are useless. A more accurate but less appealing method is to read the specific gravity of each cell of the battery bank using a bulb hydrometer, and average the readings. Then the average specific gravity for all the cells is adjusted for temperature and compared to a chart. A specific gravity of 1.265 or higher at 74 degrees Fahrenheit indicates a fully charged battery. A specific gravity of 1.120 at 74 degrees indicates a battery that is fully discharged. The reason for this difference in specific gravity is that the molecules of lead sulfate in the electrolyte bond to the sponge lead of the battery plates leaving a weaker solution (lower specific gravity) upon discharge of the battery. When charging a battery we must force the lead sulfate from the plates back into the electrolyte thereby increasing its density or specific gravity. To do this we must apply a controlled amount of amperage and voltage to the terminals (and thus the positive and negative plates) of the battery.

If all of this seems boring and tedious to you, rest assured that everyone in the whole world except a handful of weirdos, engineers, technofreaks and other strange, reclusive, lab-dwelling types feel the same

Rolly wrote the following for the 40th anniversary of the station.

On March 5, 1992, W3TKQ will be forty years old, and has occupied four different areas, with five rebuildings of the station. The original location was a horseshoe shaped counter with the operator in the middle, and located where the present café is on the second floor. Just a receiver and transmitter for hf, and later a couple of other items. The first time I saw it was in 1953 when my wife and I visited the Institute.

In 1962 that whole room was rebuilt to house the Bell Telephone exhibit, the weather station, and a new W3TKQ with a beautiful Collins console set up, plus a ten-meter cabinet for Phil-Mont operations. The station was adjacent to the manmade lightning exhibit, which was also demonstrated by the same operator. Nelson Schurr was the chief operator then, with help from Paul Singewald, Les Ransom and Sam Moskowitz. Les dropped out in 1972 and I took his place. Then Nelson decided to retire, and Frank Whitten took his place.

In 1978 that room was dismantled and the lightning and W3TKQ moved to the east end of the electrical room at the other end of the building. We operated there for several years until they decided to rebuild that room, and we were banished to the old storeroom up on the fourth floor. Sam had dropped out due to illness, and Jack Kramer joined us, and later John Russell. We did the best we could with what we had. Then we all got laid-off, and the "fun" started.

We now have a beautiful station in that old storeroom, with all the latest equipment, and a lot of volunteer operators who are finding that it is an interesting place to work and meet the public.

And he wrote this in September 1996

Navy Mars at W3TKQ

In 1977 all the operators of W3TKQ were also members of Navy Mars. They asked permission from the Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club to apply for a Mars call. The requirements were that the trustee and two club members must be Mars Members.

I was trustee at that time, and my Mars call was NNN0ARF. Sam Moskowitz-K3RTR was NNN0UKP, Frank Whitten-K3TEF was NNN0UCL, and Fred Fowler-WA3AAL was NNN0XYU.

The permission was given, and in November 1977 they started operating with the Mars call NNN0QPN.

Sam and Fred are both now Silent Keys, and Frank, who is 91, does not come in any more since he had a stroke. In almost nineteen years of service we've filled four log books, and passed quite a few messages between servicemen and their families. In October 1996, I completed 34 years in Navy Mars.

<http://www.comcat.com/pmrc/w3pwg.html>

1998

MAY

1998

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3 2M NCS N3OWM 10M NCS W3HFX 75M NCS W3PWG <i>Wrightstown Hamfest</i>	4	5 CODE PRACTICE NET at 8 PM W3RM	6 DIRECTORS' MEETING at K2BN & WA2BTB's	7 157 th LICENSE EXAM Session at The Franklin Institute Registration begins at 6:00 Doors close at 6:30 p.m. <i>sharp!</i>	8	9
10 2M NCS W3STW 10M NCS W3HFX 75M NCS W3STW <i>Mothers' Day</i>	11 ○	12 CODE PRACTICE NET at 8 PM WA3NSP	13 GENERAL MEETING at The Franklin Institute Refreshments at 7:00 p.m. Meeting starts at 7:30.	14	15 <i>Dayton Hamvention Begins</i>	16 <i>Blurb Deadline!</i>
17 2M NCS WB3KOJ 10M NCS W3HFX 75M NCS N3JDM <i>Dayton Hamvention Ends</i>	18	19 CODE PRACTICE NET at 8 PM W3AOK	20	21	22	23
24 2M NCS KB3IV 10M NCS W3HFX 75M NCS KB3IV	25 ● <i>Memorial Day</i>	26 CODE PRACTICE NET at 8 PM W3RM	27	28	29	30
31 2M NCS W3BBB 10M NCS W3HFX 75M NCS W3BBB				Successful people are very lucky. Just ask any failure.		